

**Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** annagatewood@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:44 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lesser, Matthew; JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Concerning HB 5344

Judiciary Committee February 24, 2016

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Please accept this as my testimony (for Public Hearing held on 2/24/16) in SUPPORT of HB 5344, An Act Concerning Support for Animals that are neglected or Treated Cruelly.

I vote, and this issue is important to me.

I support HB 5433 because:

Research has established strong links between violent behaviors towards humans and violent behaviors toward animals.

Law enforcement agencies must take violence towards animals seriously, and prosecutions must be encouraged. A disturbing OLR report (2015-R-0262) found that between 2005 and 2015, 80% of animal cruelty offences were either not prosecuted or dismissed

Having court advocates for animals would be done at no cost by enlisting volunteer representation for animals from Law Students and Law Firms.

Teaching Humans to behave with kindness and respect towards animals will help build a more humane society.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you

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